

Colinton Courier

Newsletter of the Colinton Rural Fire Brigade * No 154* September 2014



RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons congratulates Jeremy on his Long Service Medal

Committee 2014-2015:

Fire Captain: Graham Povey
Senior Deputy: Nick Goldie
Deputies: Bob Morison, Jeremy Mears, Michael Burton, Barry Woolacott
President: Michael Burton
Secretary: Sandra Lauer
Treasurer: Bob Morison
Training Officer: Jeremy Mears
Equipment Officers: Michael Burton, Karl Higgins
Community Awareness: Nick Goldie
Fundraising: Gill Robinson
Permits: Graham Povey

NSW RFS Delegate: Jeremy Mears

Call out:


Early evening on *Saturday 23 August*, a landholder on Collyers Road called the brigade with a request for assistance – a small burn was threatening to become a larger burn. Seven *Bravo* (Graham) was quickly on scene, and had the fire under control by the time *Alpha* (Karl, Michael, Nick) arrived to assist with mopping up.

Seven *Alpha* was also on watchful duty as neighbours Karl, Jeremy and Nick carried out some long-planned burning of blackberry patches along Weemala Lane on Friday 12 September.

Statewide RFS Open Day was on *Saturday 13 September*, and at the close of proceeding at around 1600, a series of electrical problems led to Baroona Road residents Karl, Michael and Nick leaving the station in Seven *Charlie*.

As *Charlie* left the station, a plume of smoke was seen along Bumbalong Road. Investigation showed that it was a Bumbalong resident burning love-grass along Downstream Road. They were well-equipped with water tank and pump, so they were asked to PLEASE notify the Brigade if they were planning a burn.


On *Monday 15 September*, *Alpha* was re-started by Shire mechanic Roy, who said that he needed to take *Alpha* to the Polo Flat workshop to overhaul the electrical system. As Nick was preparing to return to Baroona Road in *Charlie*, another plume of smoke was spotted along Bumbalong Road, so Nick and Graham went to investigate. It was soon obvious that a real fire was burning along Upstream Road and threatening a house. Bredbo Seven (Keith, James) was also soon on scene, and Jeremy arrived in his own vehicle. Some two hectares of grass

was ablaze, started by a slasher hitting a stone. The fire was under control by early afternoon, but as *Charlie* was crossing the Bumbalong causeway, yet another plume of smoke was spotted to the south. Once again, it was a well-equipped landowner burning logs; and once again the request was made: PLEASE notify the brigade if you are planning a burn. 



Open Day: making good use of the TransGrid table

Open Day 2014:

About two dozen friends and members of the Brigade took part in Open Day 2014, held on *Saturday 13 September*. Training Officer Jeremy was presented with a Long Service Medal by Insp. Langdon Gould of the Cooma Fire Control Centre, and in the early afternoon the Brigade was very pleased to welcome an unexpected visit from RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons. 


Bushfire CRC Report:

Although the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre has been terminated, some research reports are still emerging from the pipeline, most recently *Planning and Bushfire Risk in a Changing Climate*,

from a team at the University of Canberra led by Prof Barbara Norman. The enquiry looked at urban and regional planning and how this can affect bushfire risk. Not surprisingly, different parts of Australia have different rules and regulations, which have been highlighted in the various post-bushfire enquiries since 1939.

One common factor, says the research team, is: *Decision makers still find it very hard to say 'no' to development and as a consequence we continue to build and rebuild in bushfire prone areas.*

The 1939 enquiry noted that “townships have been allowed to be encroached upon by scrub”. The CRC Report says dryly “It would take a few more decades to reach the more complex understanding that townships had also been allowed to encroach upon the scrub.”

The full Report is available from: http://www.bushfirecrc.com/sites/default/files/urban_and_regional_planning.pdf 



Am I drawing blood? Insp. Langdon presents Jeremy with his medal

Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC:

The BNHCRC is the successor to the Bushfire CRC. On September 4th, the new CRC issued the Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Southern Australia. The map (below) shows a very large area with "above normal" fire risk for the coming season. Note that this is not a prediction, but a risk assessment.

The full report is available online at: <http://www.bnhcrc.com.au/resources/hazardnoteedition/1259>



Membership:

Membership: please pay by cash at training, or cheque to The Treasurer, Colinton Rural Fire Brigade, PO Box 4829, Kingston ACT 2604.

Membership fees: \$20.00 for adults, \$5.00 for juniors. Donations are always welcome. Please provide a return address so a receipt can be mailed to you.

Your Local Painter

Bob Davis

0408 697 070

Have Brush will Travel



Training:

The Colinton Brigade conducts training every month on the second Saturday, at 2 pm at the Station at Colinton. Everyone is welcome.

If possible, crews are asked to arrive at 1330 (1.30 pm) to check the trucks before training.

Snakes on the move: (from Gill Robinson)

Like us, snakes are coming out of hibernation and will be hungry.

The Brown Snake loves to eat mice. So make sure your chook yard, sheds and house are mouse-free. Red-bellied Blacks eat frogs, so if you have a pond be aware. Keep vegetation away from the house, as snakes will hide there.

If you have a snake in the house shut the door of the room it is in, block under the door with a rolled-up towel and call us.

If you have a snake in the yard, just let it move through. It is probably on its way and is scared of you. If you have a persistent snake in and around the property then call us to remove it. We don't charge a fee but donations to the MRCA are always appreciated.

Please don't try to catch any snake or attempt to kill it.

Call:
Michael Burton 0407 003 392
Gill Robinson 0400 356 645 or
62359334.



Shire mechanic Roy, who keeps the whole show on the road



The official

*Bushfire Danger Season
opens on
Wednesday 1 October.
This means that*

NO FIRES

may be lit without a permit.

*All permits are revoked
on days when
there is a
Total Fire Ban.*

*If you plan to light any fire
PLEASE
inform your neighbours
and
your local fire brigade.*



*Items for **The Colinton Courier** to Nick Goldie at
nickgoldie@bigpond.com*

02 6235 9190

*by the first Saturday each month, or to any
Committee member. For production assistance we
are grateful to:*



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*The Colinton Courier is also available at
www.michelagoregion.org.au*

*Views expressed in The Colinton Courier are not
necessarily those of the editor, the Brigade, or the
RFS.*



**Essential numbers
Emergency 000**

Fire:

**Cooma Monaro Fire Control
(24 hrs)
1 300 722 164
02-6455 0455**

Fire:

**Captain and Permit Officer:
Graham Povey
02-6454 4150
0419 406 908**

